

Stratford Parents' Place

Johnson House of Stratford Academy * 719 Birdseye Street

Phone: (203) 381-6992 * Fax: (203)381-6996 * www.townofstratford.com

Stratford Parents' Place is a family resource center based in Stratford's magnet school. Parents' Place is a cooperative project of Stratford Community Services and the Stratford Public Schools.

Hours: Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays-9:00 am to 4:00 pm; Thursdays-9:00 am to 7:00 pm and Fridays-9:00 am to 2:00 pm. Scheduled afternoon, evening and weekend programs are offered.

Parenting Programs

Stratford Parents' Place offers a variety of **parenting classes** throughout the school year such as *Assertive Discipline*, *Single Parenting - Making the Most of It* and *Homework Strategies*.

Parent Support

Parent/Child Activities, a structured morning program for parents and preschoolers that involves play with educational toys, arts and craft projects, singing and movement together. During these sessions time is arranged for parents to meet informally for discussion on parenting topics.

Especially for Fathers is held on the first Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m.

Fathers, grandfathers, uncles or older brothers are encouraged to attend with preschool children (up to age 5). On the first and third Thursday of the month, ***Babytime*** provides an opportunity for parents to share the joys and challenges of baby's first year.

Parents' Place also offers a warm line consultation service, *Parent Line*, where a simple phone call (381-6992) can put parents in touch with a parent educator who has practical tips to answer parenting or child development questions. Other parent support services include a quarterly newsletter mailed to registered parents, seminars and other events of interest to parents.

Home Based Programs

The ***Parents as Teachers*** (PAT) program provides developmental information and support through home visits for families with children birth to three years. ***Learning is Fun Together*** (LIFT) is a home-based program for three and four year old children and their parents who live in the Stratford Academy or Franklin School neighborhoods. The LIFT program helps parents develop early literacy skills in their children, preparing for school success. A parent educator visits families at their convenience to share packets filled with fun and educational activities to do together.

Resources For Parents and Professionals

Books and materials on parenting, child development, and child care are available for parents and professionals to borrow. Parents and professionals can also find out about local community resources and family activities. An **Early Childhood Institute** offers free workshops for Stratford early childhood educators and home child care providers. These workshops focus on improving the standards of early childhood care and education.

In addition, Stratford Parents' Place also provides information and referral to the following services:

Preschool Child Care: Find out about full or part-time child care for three and four year old children. Resource booklets listing all Stratford's center based early childhood programs are available free of charge.

School Age Child Care: Afterschool programs are currently available at all nine public elementary schools. Find out about school-age child care for Stratford children.

Adult Education: A counselor from Stratford Adult Education is available by appointment to discuss adult education needs including information about Adult Basic Education (ABE), General Education Development (GED) and English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL).